

**Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee (MEAC)  
 Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2024**

**Board Members Present:**

✓	Jessa Barnard	✓	Kelly Dougherty	✓	Lisa Draper
✓	Mike Fisher		Devon Green	✓	Dale Hackett
	Rebecca Heintz	✓	Sharon Henault		Jessica Jacobs
	Joan Lavoie	✓	Mary Kate Mohlman	✓	Kirsten Murphy
	Wendy Rogers		Simone Rueschemeyer	✓	Laurel Sanborn
	Stacy Weinberger				

**DVHA Staff Present:**

✓	Zachary Goss	✓	DaShawn Groves	✓	Adaline Strumolo
	Alex McCracken	✓	Jennifer Rotblatt	✓	Sandi Hoffman
✓	Sven Lindholm		Stephanie Barrett		Dan Fay
	Alicia Cooper	✓	Conor O'Dea		

**SOV/Other Attendees:**

	Monica Ogelby		Ashley Berliner	✓	Emily Kisiki
✓	Kelsey Naro	✓	Emily Belanger	✓	Sebastian Arduengo
✓	Emily Brown	✓	Anne Karl	✓	Tara Straw
✓	Spenser Wepler	✓	Elizabeth Boody	✓	Sara Teachout
✓	Eric Bachner	✓	Benjamin Nelson	✓	Martine Brisson-Lemieux
✓	Laura Beliveau	✓	Michael Barber		Scott Cerreta
✓	Sharon Stearns	✓	Tim Walker	✓	Kathy Walker
	Michael Miller		Erika Wolffing		Rebecca Copans

Topic & Presenter	Discussion	Action
Meeting Materials	<p>Posted to <a href="https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-and-materials">https://dvha.vermont.gov/advisory-boards/medicaid-and-exchange-advisory-committee/agendas-and-materials</a></p> <p>12.2.24-MEAC-Agenda.pdf MEAC-PPT-12.2.24.pdf</p>	
<p><b>1. Call to Order</b></p> <p>Sharon Henault &amp; Kirsten Murphy, Co-Chairs</p>	Meeting was convened at 10:02 AM.	
<p><b>2. Roll Call</b> <b>Establish Quorum</b> <b>Approve Minutes</b></p> <p>Zack Goss, Director of Customer Communication</p>	<p><b>Motion:</b> Approve the October 28, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.</p> <p>Minutes were not approved as quorum was not reached.</p>	
<p><b>3. Commissioner's Office Update</b></p> <p>DaShawn Groves, Commissioner (DVHA) Adaline Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DaShawn shared that staff have been considering what the recent election means for Medicaid. Regardless of what may come, the work continues to focus on continuity and quality of care for Medicaid members.</li> <li>• A lot is unknown, and DVHA/AHS will continue to monitor and bring any concerns to the advisory committee as they arise.</li> <li>• Addie noted that these transitions take time. The current administration is looking to finalize some state compliance items before the transition in January.</li> <li>• She noted that open enrollment call volume has been high, as expected, and there have been some extended wait times and delays. DVHA continues to work with call center partners to meet those service-level agreements that are in place.</li> <li>• Addie said that plan selections are being tracked. A report will be generated on that data after open enrollment period.</li> </ul>	

#### 4. Marketplace Affordability Strategy Report

Adaline Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)  
Anne Karl, Manatt Health

- Addie noted that the presentation today does not represent recommendations from DVHA, only options for further discussion.
- Anne Karl explained that Act 113 (H.883) of 2024 directed the state to conduct a technical analysis related to Vermont's health insurance markets.
- The act directed DVHA to examine:
  - Market Structure
    - Should Vermont keep its individual and small group markets as separate markets?
  - Targeted Affordability
    - What targeted affordability programs could Vermont pursue if federal IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) subsidies expire as scheduled at the end of 2025?
  - Broader Affordability
    - What longer term options could extend Medicaid-like coverage to a broader population?
- DVHA engaged several partners to support analysis and provide feedback on the legislative study's three topic areas.
  - Manatt Health to support qualitative policy analysis
  - Wakely to support quantitative policy analysis
  - Listening sessions with stakeholders
- Anne provided a summary of the key findings, which she stressed are preliminary.
- Discussion ensued. It was noted that this is a point in time report.
- IRA subsidies substantially improved affordability of Marketplace premiums since 2021. If IRA subsidies expire at the end of 2025, Vermont Marketplace enrollees will face significant affordability impacts.
- Loss could be even greater if not for silver loading.
- Anne reviewed some options
  - Targeted changes to Vermont Premium Assistance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reinsurance could provide across-the-board premium reduction (ie 10%) and support unsubsidized populations above 400% FPL</li> <li>● Comments were made about the limitations of reinsurance and the need to perform longer term cost projections since it would be an ongoing program and the financial picture will change over time</li> <li>● Anne presented that a Medicaid Expansion continues to be financially challenging with limited federal match.</li> <li>● She shared considerations from other states. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public options have shown limited gains in other states that have implemented them.</li> <li>○ Basic Health Program (BHP) could improve affordability and expand coverage. Minnesota and New York have implemented and recently Oregon did as well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● She shared that Vermont has unique market features that distinguish it from other states that have implemented a BHP. This includes Vermont's Medicaid managed care model and use of silver loading which could be compromised.</li> <li>● New York and Minnesota implemented BHP prior to silver loading introduction. Oregon is dealing with it already being in place and working to mitigate the marketplace impact.</li> <li>● Anne shared next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actuarial analysis to be finalized in December</li> <li>○ Report drafting through December</li> <li>○ Report due to Senate and House committees in January.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Laurel encouraged keeping the family perspective and people directly affected by any policy changes.</li> <li>● It was noted that this report is the beginning of the conversation that will continue in the legislature.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Draft MEAC Bylaws</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Zack shared the implementation timeline for BAC which includes the MEAC bylaws that are being finalized.</li> </ul>	

<p>Zack Goss, Director of Customer Communication (DVHA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zack reminded members of the non-consecutive term requirement and shared the proposed MEAC composition for 2025.</li> <li>• He shared that Commissioner Groves will reappoint MEAC members to restart staggered terms in July 2025.</li> <li>• Sharon shared that she felt it was important to have ex-officio members to represent the disabled community and other factions to broaden the knowledge and input within the committee. She noted that having ex-officio members from organizations does not mean that other members of an organization cannot serve as a voting member.</li> <li>• Kirsten gave the example that she may serve as ex-officio member representing DDS, and a consumer from DDS could serve as a voting member on MEAC and BAC.</li> <li>• A survey will be sent out for current members to share if they have a preference on term length in the staggered term reset.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. ACT 119</b> Monica Ogelby, Medicaid Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rescheduled to January due to the presenter being unexpectedly out today.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Medicaid Director Update</b> Monica Ogelby, Medicaid Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Public Comment</b> Sharon Henault and Kirsten Murphy, Co-Chairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharon Steams introduced herself and noted that she attended last month as well.</li> <li>• She stated that she represents those who cannot afford insurance premiums and many people she knows also cannot afford them and are leaving Vermont.</li> <li>• She expressed concerns about a local home-based health care agency and her challenges with holding them accountable for care gaps for her brother.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She shared that there is a lack of support and information for families like hers that are struggling with the system.</li> </ul>	
<b>9. Final Committee Discussion</b>  Sharon Henault and Kirsten Murphy, Co-Chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	<b>MEAC member application:</b> <a href="#">Advisory Committee Members   Department of Vermont Health Access</a>
<b>10. Adjourn</b>  Sharon Henault and Kirsten Murphy, Co-Chairs	Meeting adjourned at 11:59 AM.  Next meeting January 27, 2025.	<b>Motion to Adjourn:</b> Dale Hackett <b>Second:</b> Laurel Sanborn <b>Approved</b>

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